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In the Claims

Claims remaining in the application are as follows:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Previously presented): A method for handling image data within a digital camera having a memory storage unit for storing image data, the camera connectable to an external information handling system adapted to receive image data from the camera, the method comprising:

- storing image data elements in an image storage queue in a chronological order based on time of image capture by the camera;
- assigning each image data element an archival status;
- indicating said archival status of said image data element;
- determining capacity for the camera to add additional image data elements to the image storage queue as a function of said archival status and said chronological order in combination;
- detecting when the image storage queue is full;
- determining whether at least one image stored in the image storage queue is marked as archived; and
- if at least one image is marked as archived, deleting an oldest archived image from the image storage queue.

3. (Previously presented): The method of claim 2, wherein each said image data element has a filename for identifying the image data element in a directory system, and wherein said indicating comprises naming said filename to indicate said archival status.

4. (Previously presented): The method of claim 2, wherein said indicating comprises:

- creating an organizational structure comprising a file system directory including a reserved location for archived image data elements; and
- placing archived image data elements in said reserved location.

5. (Previously presented): The method of claim 2, further comprising:
archiving one said image data element, said archiving comprising copying said image
data element to the external information handling system; and
changing said archival status of said image data element to indicate that said data
element is archived.

6. (Original): The method of claim 5, further comprising associating each said
image data element with a header, wherein said changing said archival status comprises
changing the contents of said header.

7. (Original): The method of claim 6, wherein said header comprises a data bit
indicating archival status, wherein said changing the contents of said header comprises
inverting said data bit.

8. (Previously presented): The method of claim 5, wherein said image data
element has a filename for identifying the image data element in a directory system
comprising at least one character, and wherein said changing comprises altering said
filename by at least one character.

9. (Original): The method of claim 5, further comprising receiving a selection of
one said image data element for archiving.

10. (Original): The method of claim 5, wherein said archiving comprises:
connecting the camera to the external information handling system; and
copying said image data element from the memory storage unit in the camera to the
external information handling system.

11. (Original): The method of claim 5, wherein the memory storage unit
includes a removable storage medium, and wherein said archiving comprises:
removing the removable storage medium from the camera;
connecting the removable storage medium to the external information handling
system; and
copying said image data element from the removable storage medium to the external
information handling system.

12. (Previously presented): A method for handling image data within a digital camera having a memory storage unit for storing image data, the camera connectable to an external information handling system adapted to receive image data from the camera, the method comprising:

- storing image data elements in an image storage queue in a chronological order based on time of image capture by the camera;
- assigning each image data element an archival status;
- indicating said archival status of said image data element;
- determining capacity for the camera to add additional image data elements to the image storage queue as a function of said archival status and said chronological order in combination;
- archiving one said image data element, said archiving comprising copying said image data element to the external information handling system; and
- changing said archival status of said image data element to indicate that said data element is archived;
- determining that the memory storage unit is full;
- determining that at least one said image data element in said image storage queue has been archived; and
- deleting from the memory storage unit at least one said archived image data element according to the chronological order.

13. (Previously presented): The method of claim 12, wherein said deleting comprises deleting the oldest archived image data element in said image storage queue from the memory storage unit.

14. (Original): The method of claim 5, further comprising:

- determining that the memory storage unit is full;
- determining that no said image data element in said image storage queue has been archived; and
- notifying a user that the memory storage unit is full.

15. (Original): The method of claim 14, further comprising:

- receiving a selection of an image data element for deletion; and
- deleting said selected image data element from the memory storage unit.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously presented): A digital camera adapted for connection to an external information handling system, the camera comprising:

an image acquisition unit;

a memory storage unit coupled to the image acquisition unit and configured to store a plurality of image data elements chronologically based on time of image capture; and

a controller coupled to the image acquisition unit and coupled to the memory storage unit, the controller assigning each image data element an archival status, indicating said archival status of said image data element, and determining capacity for the camera to add additional image data elements to the image storage queue as a function of said archival status and said chronological order in combination, wherein said controller is adapted for:

detecting when the image storage queue is full;

determining whether at least one image stored in the image storage queue is marked as archived; and

if at least one image is marked as archived, deleting an oldest archived image from the image storage queue.

18-20. (Canceled)